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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

FOR SA/INS

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TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CE](#) [MV](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 131 (09/09/03)

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JEFFREY J. LUNSTEAD; REASONS 1.5 B, [1D](#).

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- DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN BUDDHIST CLERIC

PEACE PROCESS UPDATE

[11](#). (C) FYI. We have the following updates on the peace process:

-- Norwegian Ambassador in the east: Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar is in Batticaloa District in the east for a familiarization tour, according to Norwegian Embassy contacts. Brattskar met with eastern Tiger military leader Karuna late September 8, and urged the LTTE to listen to the SLMM and come back to the talks, etc. Karuna was non-committal in his replies.

-- A GSL/LTTE meeting?: FYI. A local press report dated September 9 stated that Tiger Peace Secretariat chief S. Pulithevan and Ambassador Goonetilleke, chief of the GSL's Peace Secretariat (and foreign secretary in waiting), planned to meet in Geneva this week. The GSL's Peace Secretariat confirmed that Goonetilleke is indeed in

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Switzerland for a conference on human rights-related issues, but said no meeting with the LTTE was planned.

-- Kofi Annan Visit?: FYI. There have been reports in the local press recently that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was planning to visit Sri Lanka next month. We talked to the UN resident representative's office which said that it had not received any information about such a visit. There had also been some reports earlier this year of a possible Annan visit, but those did not pan out either.

-- Monitoring/Reviewing?: With regard to comment in yesterday's o-i about "reviewing" rather than "monitoring and reviewing" the peace process, the ideas which Japanese Ambassador Akashi has shared with us use just the term "review." However, we would note that paras 18 and 20 of the Tokyo Declaration state that the international community will "review and monitor" the progress of the peace process. So if it comes down to that, we think those words should be acceptable.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN BUDDHIST CLERIC

[12](#). (U) FYI. In a matter that received a lot of press play today, just want to flag that Venerable Madihe Pannaseeha Nayaka Thero, a well-known Buddhist cleric, died yesterday (September 8). Madihe, 91, was probably one of the top five Buddhist clerics in the country (ranking just after the heads of the Malwatte and Asgiriya orders, for example), and ran a well-known temple complex south of Colombo. He was also involved in founding Buddhist temples elsewhere, including one in Washington on 16th St. NW. Madihe was considered a moderate and generally steered clear of political issues. (POL)

LUNSTEAD